

The Select Board of Newfields, New Hampshire ordains as follows:

Emergency Mask Ordinance Related to COVID-19 Pandemic

Declaration of Purpose: The purpose of this Emergency Ordinance is to enact public health provisions designed to significantly reduce the spread of COVID-19, a highly contagious virus that poses a dangerous health threat to citizens. These provisions, recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and the World Health Organization, and further promulgated by the Director of Public Health for the State of New Hampshire, must be implemented on a community-wide basis as part of the Town of Newfields's COVID-19 public health response plan.

Title: This Ordinance shall be known and may be cited as the "COVID-19 Emergency Mask Ordinance of the Town of Newfields"

Authority: NH RSA 147:1

WHEREAS, NH RSA 147: 1 grants Health Officers of cities and towns the authority to draft regulations relating to the public health as in their judgement the health and safety of the people require; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Newfields, New Hampshire Select Board recognizes additional measures are necessary to prevent or reduce activities that increase the likelihood of the spread of the highly contagious and potentially life-threatening virus known as COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the best means of slowing the spread of the virus is through minimizing close personal contact with individuals in a public environment, social/physical distancing by keeping a distance of six feet between yourself and others, covering your mouth and nose by wearing a face covering, and proper hand washing; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has concluded that the wearing of masks by all persons under certain circumstances is an effective method to reduce exposure to the COVID-19 virus, by providing a simple barrier to help prevent respiratory droplets from traveling into the air and onto other people when the person wearing the cloth face covering coughs, sneezes, talks or raises their voice; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 can be spread by people who do not have symptoms (asymptomatic carriers) and therefore are unaware they are infected. It is therefore important that everyone wear cloth face coverings in public settings, whether or not they are feeling ill;

NOW THEREFORE, for the purpose of continuing to provide safety for its residents, under New Hampshire RSA 147:1 acting in their capacity as the Newfields Select Board and based on the Town Health Officer's authority to promulgate regulations for the prevention and removal of public health nuisances, hereby ordains that members of the public must wear face masks while conducting business at the Town Hall building.

This order shall apply to any individual who is age two (2) or older, and not otherwise exempt per CDC guidelines. A face covering is also not required to be worn by any person if said person can show a medical professional has advised that wearing a face covering may pose a risk to said person for health-related reasons.

As used herein "face covering" means a covering made of cloth, fabric, or other soft or permeable material, without holes, that covers only the nose, mouth, and surrounding areas of the lower face. A face covering may be factory made or homemade and improvised from ordinary household material.

This order shall remain in effect until March 8, 2022, or as recommended by the Town Health Officer.

This ordinance is intended to protect the health and safety of people from exposure to the Coronavirus, COVID-19. It is also intended to educate and inform the public as to protective measures that may reduce the contagion.